

(Topical
Outline)

WESTERN SAHARA

(Map)

- I. 3 year dispute entering new phase. Change results from Coup in Mauritania. New rulers want to settle. Morocco and Algeria have reassessed positions.
- II. Occasional contacts to date. This week Hassan and Bournedieue due to meet in Belgium. Both say intend to be more flexible.
- III. But tough issue to resolve. Long way to go.
 - a. Moroccan irredentist drive is very strong. Hassan says his future rests on maintaining sovereignty over phosphate rich northern part.
 - b. Algeria views question in terms of northern African predominance. No territorial claims but wants deny Morocco direct link to black Africa, access to phosphate. Also aspires to Algerian access to Atlantic. Uses self determination.
 - c. Polisano. Success, particularly against Mauritania. Wants to fight to end. But only 15 nations recognized. Even Soviets - Cubans cautious. Heavily dependent on Algeria.
 - d. Mauritania wants out. Losing 120M. in F.E./yr. from attacks on iron ore transportation and production facilities. Could back out on alliance with Morocco. Daddah fell on this issue. New leadership committed to settlement.
- IV. Current status. 3 - 5,000 Polisano. Phosphate ~~mines~~ ^{operations} curtailed. Truce w/Mauritania. Moroccan casualties up 40 to 100/mo.

V. In Terms of Settlement

Morocco

- a. Will not give up sovereignty claims
- b. Will not give up control of phosphate
- c. Opposition to independent Sahara.

Algeria

- a. Recognize military solution unlikely
- b. Sees no end to struggle since Polisano cannot gain recognition in NAM
- c. But may see Mauritanian weakness as exploitable.

TAB B

(Guerrilla
Photos)(Recognition
List)

(Conveyor Belt Photo)

VI. In end only possibility ~~is~~ Some sort of Saharan Federation which

- is tied to Mauritania
- leaves north to Morocco
- results in border settlement between Morocco and Algeria. Possible collaboration in exploiting new ore deposits in S.W. Algeria.

VII. But we doubt this week's conference will produce solution. Morocco is trying to buck up Mauritania. Algeria is unlikely to cave. But could start process that could ultimately lead to solution since everyone now aware that military resolution unlikely.

Final analysis

Backup
Graphics

Ethnic Map

Military Balance

WESTERN SAHARA

New Developments

Conflicting Interests

-Morocco

-Algeria

-Polisario

-Mauritania

Current Status

Prospects



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Polisario guerrilla on guard duty near refugee camps. Approved For Release 2001/09/05 : CIA-RDP81B00401R002800020044-5

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Guerrillas in Land Rover Departing for mission in Western Sahara.

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COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RECOGNIZED THE POLISARIO

Algeria

Angola

Benin

Burundi

Congo

Guinea-Bissau

Madagascar

Mozambique

North Korea

Panama

Rwanda

Sao Tome & Principe

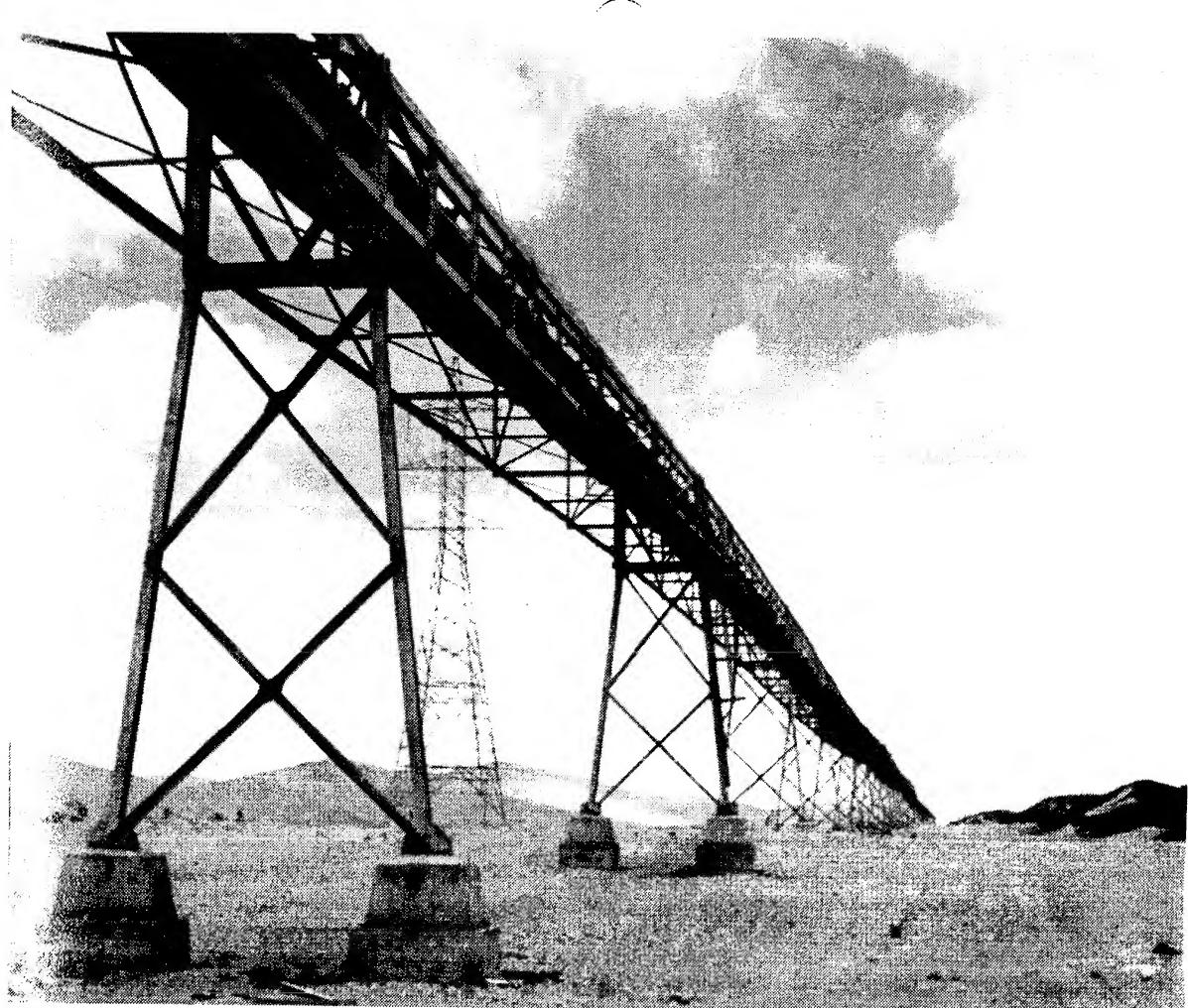
Seychelles

South Yemen

Togo

*Call back
on Feb 4/4*

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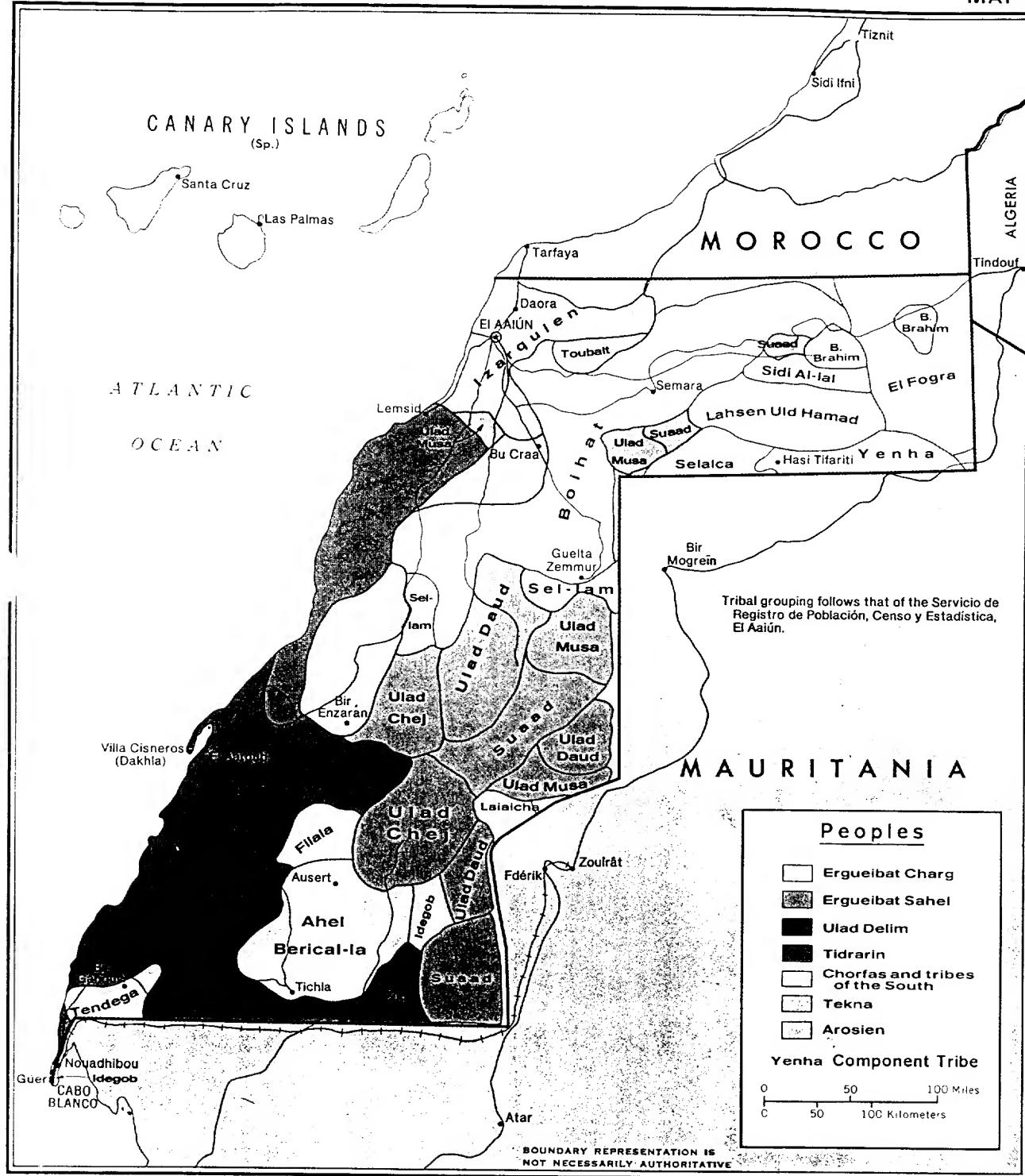


Automated conveyor belt rendered inoperative since early 1976 by sporadic guerrilla harassment.

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Peoples of Western Sahara

MAP 3



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MILITARY FORCES COMPARISON

	Morocco	Mauritania	Polisario	Algeria
Ground Forces				
Men (thousand)	87	10	3-5	80
Tanks	215	0	0	515
Heavy Artillery & Mortars	930	16	0	450
Air Defense				
SAMs	144	0	0	232
Artillery	245	0	0	520
(Forces				
Pilots	160	20	0	250
Combat Aircraft	44	0	0	255
Foreign Military Advisers				
French	200	100	0	90
Russian	10	0	0	500-600